United Nations S/2001/140

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 14 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2001, I have the honour to inform you that the African Group, in its meeting held on 9 February 2001, discussed the latest developments concerning the "Lockerbie" question, after the verdict by the Scottish Court sitting in the Netherlands was pronounced.

The African Group reaffirms its well-known position concerning this question and its continued support of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the manner with which it dealt with the "Lockerbie" question.

The settlement reached among the three parties concerned, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, through the Secretary-General, would not have been possible, if the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had not fully cooperated to resolve this issue.

Based on these facts, the African Group emphasizes its support for Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's demand for an immediate and complete lifting of the sanctions.

The African Group calls upon the Security Council to adopt the following:

1. The immediate and complete lifting of the measures imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya pursuant to Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993), which should have been lifted 90 days after their suspension and upon the receipt of the Secretary-General's report, in accordance with paragraph 16 of resolution 883 (1993) and paragraph 8 of resolution 1192 (1998).

2. Not to link the lifting of the sanctions to the end of the trial and its outcome, since there is no basis whatsoever for that, either in the resolutions of the Security Council or in the agreements reached through the United Nations and mediators who played a very important role, and which has been acknowledged and appreciated by the Council (S/PRST/1999/10).

3. No party has the right to retract from its commitments or further its demands, particularly, if that same party was the one that presented the draft resolutions to the Security Council, and accepted the agreements referred to previously. According to

01-25242 (E) 150201

Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council assumes its responsibilities on behalf of the international community. Therefore, it cannot be acceptable at all to subjugate the work of the Security Council to the interest of one of its members.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could kindly circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2001